

The 5th Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 18th, 2018—8:30am



St. John's Lutheran Church

67 Litchfield Ave.
Depew, New York 14043
(716) 683-3947
www.sjlcdepew.com

Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr.
Ms. Lois Will, Music Director
Mr. Brad Lynch, Contemporary Worship Leader
Mrs. Stella Sawyer, Office Administrator

Schedule

Saturday Evenings, 4:30pm

Sunday Mornings, 8:30am (Traditional) and 11:15am (Contemporary)

“Nursery Care” provided downstairs for children ages 1-4 during 11:15am service.

Holy Communion—Celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class—Sunday Mornings, 10am (September-June)

Radio Broadcast WXRL 1300 AM, 11am Sundays

THOSE SERVING AMONG US

AcolytesMadison Kilanowski (8:30am), Emma Kabel (11:15am)
Altar Jon Barber and Dan Herbold
Elders Harold Deutschlander (4:30pm), Ken Schabert (8:30am), John Hughey (11:15am)
LectorsPastor Galen (4:30pm), Ken Schabert (8:30am), John Hughey (11:15am)
Radio BroadcastJim Kless
Saturday MusicCarol Adragna

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST OVER WXRL IS SPONSORED THIS WEEK BY
Betty Cavaleri for my grandson’s, Travis Kilanowski, 18th birthday.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR THIS WEEK ARE GIVEN BY
Jamie & Jason Bluhm for prayers of thanksgiving to our friends and family.



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN’S

Just a friendly reminder...Worship is sacred time; a time when God comes to us through his Word and Sacraments. In order to maintain reverence during worship we kindly ask that worshipers refrain from “regular conversation” during the service. Please refrain from cell phone use and ensure that ringers on phones turned off before the service begins. **Please keep all food and beverage (with the exception of bottled water) out of the church/pews.** The “mother’s room” in the back of the church is available for parents with young children, should the need arise. The room is equipped with speakers and hymnals in order that those utilizing the room may continue to worship.

HOLY COMMUNION

Members may announce by signing a card in the pew rack and handing it to an Elder as they go forward to receive the Sacrament indicating they have been Baptized and instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament (agreeing with the clear teaching of Christ in the Holy Scriptures that His body and blood are truly present in the Sacrament and distributed to those who eat and drink offering forgiveness, life and Salvation). Those who are visiting St. John’s and wish to participate in the Sacrament are kindly asked to speak to the Pastor or an Elder before the service begins. **PLEASE READ THE FRONT OF THE COMMUNION CARD IN THE PEW** for a clear understanding of our Confession. *(Note: Those who wish to receive the wine from the chalice are asked to cross their arms over their chest after receiving the bread. Please raise the chalice to your lips when the Pastor comes to commune you.)*



The Order of Service

♪ Opening Hymn *“Drawn to the Cross” LW# 356*

Invocation and Opening Litany

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Gracious Lord, you call us to love you and to trust you above others and all other things. You call us to love our neighbor and look after their best interest as you have loved and served us. And yet, sometimes we don't. Sometimes we put people and things before you. Sometimes we serve our own needs over others. And so we confess to you:

Confession

C: **We seek your compassion and forgiveness because sometimes we don't give you the number one spot in our lives. Sometimes we put trust in ourselves more than you. Sometimes we fail to live out the Gospel in our lives as a response to the love you have shown us in Jesus. Forgive us, restore us, and renew us to be your people. Help us to hear your word, to believe it and live it out in our lives. Empower us to be a welcoming, hospitable and loving people—just as you have been welcoming, hospitable and loving to us.**

♪ Confessional Hymn

1. *The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!*

*Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb Whose death
makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning
on His throne!*

2. *The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to
sing.
(refrain)*

3. *The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill.
(refrain)*

4. *He sighs, he dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness
(refrain)*

Absolution

P: Almighty God in his mercy has heard our plea. He knows our weakness, our inadequacies and limitations. He has offered up his only Son as a sacrifice for our sins and iniquities. I by virtue of my office and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ as a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you of all your sins in the name of the Father. and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: To us, gracious Lord, you seem to work in strange ways—a whole missionary journey sidetracked so one woman far from her hometown could come to know Jesus! You prepared the way for Paul's word; you sent your Spirit into Lydia's heart; you alone deserve the praise for Lydia's saving faith. Open my heart, too, Lord; cause me to pay attention to your Word. Then make my response, like Lydia's, overflow into all areas of my life. And to you alone be the glory!

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Leviticus 19:33-34

³³When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. ³⁴The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Lenten Litany

The Second Reading

Acts 16:6-10;13-15

⁶Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. ¹³On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

¹⁴One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The LORD opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the LORD," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Verse.

C: **Return to the Lord your God. For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

The Gospel Reading

Luke 24:44-49

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁴He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

♪ **The Sermon Hymn** *"You Are the Way" LW #283*

The Sermon Dialogue Rev. Galen Purpura
..... Mrs. Helena Geisen

The Offering

The Offering Prayer

P: Heavenly Father you have given us life.

C: **What can we give in return for our lives?**

P: We return them back to you.

C: **Accept these tokens. Accept our lives.**

P: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The Prayers of the Church

P: O Lord, like Lydia, we are called to welcome those who share the news of your salvation into our midst. Give us the courage to support the needs of those who preach and teach your Word, even when it is not always something that the society around us values. Grant us the willingness to open our doors to your ambassadors and to listen well to what they have to share with us. O Lord, who gave your life,

C: help us return your love with love.

P: Lydia met with women of her community to meditate and study your Word. Help us to gather together as often as we can in Bible classes, worship services and in small groups to learn more about you and strengthen one another in our lives of faith. O Lord, who gave your life,

C: help us return your love with love.

P: Lydia was a successful businesswoman as well as a believer in Christ. Embolden us to bear your cross into our places of business and our work life so that more may know that you are the supreme ruler of our lives, and that it is more important to store up treasures in heaven than to seek after earthly wealth and prestige. Help us to be loving and forgiving to all we interact with in our jobs, reflecting your compassion toward us. O Lord, who gave your life,

C: help us return your love with love.

P: All those in Lydia's household came to believe in you and were baptized. Help us to be a positive spiritual influence on the faith lives of all those who dwell in our households and our neighborhoods. May our words and actions declare to those nearest and dearest to us that you are the ultimate source and strength of everything we say and do. O Lord, who gave your life,

C: help us return your love with love.

P: Be with all those who are suffering in any way of body, mind and spirit, especially... Restore health to them according to your will, and bless them with people like Lydia who respond to your love by caring for them in their time of need. Help us to see ways in which we can serve those around us who are hurting that we may be able to touch them with your peace, comfort and hope. O Lord, who gave your life,

C: help us return your love with love.

P: Dear Jesus, support the work of missionaries around the world and expand their reach so that more and more people may come to know you as their Savior, through your sacrificial death on the cross and your triumphant resurrection from the dead. O Lord, who gave your life,

C: help us return your love with love.

P: All these petitions we offer in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who did the will of God and lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

P: Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth, in mercy for our fallen world you gave your only begotten Son that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in his Holy Supper.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

SPECIAL NOTE

During the winter months/ flu season we will refrain from exchanging the peace in a handshake. Instead, Please take a moment to share a word of peace to your neighbor and those around you.

♪ Distribution and Distribution Hymns

- *“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” LW #96*
- *“There Stands a Fountain” LW # 506*
- *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” LW #510*

Post Communion Prayer

- P: Merciful God, Renew us in the gift of baptism, that repentant and forgiven we might live new lives trusting in your presence and promises—finding our only treasure in your Son Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

Benediction

- P: The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace! In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

Silent Prayer

- ♪ Closing Hymn *“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” LW #100*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION—YOUTH GROUP

Young Hearts (from Birth to Grade 5):
Text Remind
Text # 81010
Text
Box @little gift



**DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, MARCH 23RD**

All orders must be prepaid and received **no later than March 23rd**. The pick-up date has been scheduled for Saturday, May 19th, from 9:30 to 11:30am. Order forms can be found in the Narthex. If you have any questions, speak with Lois Will. **Please do not place your order and/or payment in the offertory.**

The **Mystery Dinner** event originally scheduled for Friday, March 9th has been rescheduled:

Friday, April 20th.

Where: St. John's When: 6- 9pm
Cost: \$8 per person

Join us for a fun-filled dinner and reserve your table now.



SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDERS:

Sunday, March 25th is Family Service Sunday at the 11:15 am Worship Service.

Parents: Please return your **VBS survey** by **April 1st**. These surveys will enable us to work toward a program that will best fit the needs of our families. Your participation is very much appreciated.



EVERYONE HAS A STORY ... *We all know that God is always there, but there are times when God steps into our lives in such a powerful way that he changes the landscape of our lives. We would like to document your stories and compile a booklet that would be made in-house and distributed to the congregation to lift us all. We invite you to submit your stories, art work, poems, etc. to put into this project. We hope to have this ready for Pentecost.*

What's your story?

*After Hon went to her Heavenly home and I went to live with my daughter and her family, I thought that I would be able to come to church about four times a year because of the distance. I was speechless when Mike Brown asked me if I would like to come to church on Communion Sundays. The congregation has been very supportive to me. I have never seen such love. I am proud to be part of this church's family.
Love, Cliff Lee*

An updated Directory can be found in the Narthex. Please take a minute or two to verify your address, phone numbers, and other information before copies are printed.

**A big thank you to our St. John's family for all of your prayers and cards. We are so very grateful for your support.
Ernie & Sue Reitzel**



IN OUR PRAYERS: Carol Adragna; Sylvia Andolina; Jerry Bernfield; Jim Brennan; Evelyn Camarano; Shirley Connors; Harold Deutschlander; Ruth Dowd; Karen Durning; Janet Erickson; Tom Grzankowski; Irmgard Hartung; Nate, Sarah & baby Hoffman; Marlene Hutter; Cari Irvine; Marie Karl; Don, Gail Kelm; Marge Kelm; Kori Kent; Rose Kirch; the Krupa family; Nina Kyle, Deann Lorenz; Ron & Brittany Lorenz; Don Lynch; John Marone, Marsha McKinney; Lola Meyer; Donna Murawski; Carolyn Nosky; Phyllis O'Rourke; Elgene Peck; Carole Pleban; Barb Podisadlo; Ernie & Sue Reitzel; Pat Schlebus; Sam, Randy & baby Surface; Kim Theil, Jordan & Ryan Thurnherr; Norma VanDerwark; Betty Wilson.

OUR SERVICE MEMBERS: Tracy Thurnherr, William Borowski.
FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S: Sandy (Ruth Haungs' niece); Angela (Jay & Phyllis Hanson's daughter); Kyle, Rea, & Gloria (Kathy Ponosny's loved ones); Helen, Emily, Stanley (Ceil Rowell's friends); Delores Schad (Betty Cavaleri's sister-in-law); Meg (Carol Coffed's daughter-in-law); Mike & Gus (friends of Carol Coffed); Mary Dziejman (Jenn Purpura's grandmother); Brella (Betty Cavaleri's great granddaughter); Bill McIlhagga (Scott's father); Janie Jazwiecki (Dawn Smith's mother); Jackie & Steve Rogers (friends of Nina Kyle); Tom Fowler (friend of Ed & Deann Lorenz); Ray Helmicki (Christine Bluhm's brother); Beverly (Betty Cavaleri's daughter in law); Michael (Sam Surface's father); Chris Martino (Tony's son); Mark & Charlie (Sylvia's friends); Karen Plewik & Julie Reid (Linda Plewik's sister and niece); Katrina (Don & Barb Loney's daughter-in-law); Ray Nieman (RJ's dad); Russ (Heather Holtz's father); Warren (Rick Thurnherr's friend); Nate (Eric Lynch's friend); Carole (Fragale family friend); Deb (John Hughey's mom); Tony Manna (Katie & Joey's grandfather); Robert Power (Barb Perry's daughter-in-law's brother); Joe Bernacki (Barb Perry's friend & neighbor's father); Laura Reynolds (Laura Tirone's friend); Gary Kent, Sr.; Danny (Colleen Hurley's brother); Alaina (Corine Lorenz's friend); Marvin (friend of Karen & Bob Zielen); Marge Blum (Jim Kless' cousin's mother in law); Dave (Wayne Dziejilewski's brother); Kristine (Irmgard's daughter); Jim (Barb Perry's niece's father in law) Gary Stango (Betty Cavaleri's cousin) Gabe (Pam Bluhm's friend); Pastor David Walsh; Tom Sellers (Ceil Rowell's nephew).

Friends of St. John's" will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks without further notification. If you would like to keep a prayer listed after 4 weeks, please contact us at that time by phone or email (683-3947 / stjohnlutheran.office@gmail.com). Thank you!



**First Communion
 Palm Sunday
 March 25th**

All students in 5th grade are invited to participate. Instruction session will take place Saturday, March 24th, from 10am—12noon. Please let Pastor Galen know if you plan to participate.



*The Feast of Passover,
 The Seder Meal
 Wednesday*

*March 28th, 6pm
 \$12 Per Person
 Please see Pastor Galen for your tickets.*

The Lector Schedule and sign-up sheet for the months of March, April and May is on the office hallway bulletin board.

Butterflies
Saturday, March 31st

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 13th

Plant Sale Delivery
Saturday, May 19th



Pentecost / Confirmation
Sunday, May 20th

Chicken Barbeque
Date to be Determined



Mid-Week Lenten Services
(6pm, Soup & Sandwich meal;
7:15pm, Hymn Sing;
7:30pm, Worship Service):
3/21—Our Savior, Buffalo



Palm Sunday, 1st Holy Communion
Saturday, March 24th, 4:30pm
Sunday, March 25th, 8:30am & 11:15am
Worship Services with Holy Communion



Seder Meal, Wednesday, March 28th, 6:30pm
RSVP sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex, or send an email to the office.



Maundy Thursday, March 9th
7:30pm, Worship Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday, March 30th,
7:30pm, Worship Service



Easter Vigil, March 31st
4:30pm, Worship Service with Holy Communion



Easter Sunday, April 1st
6am, 8:30am, 11:15am
Worship Services with Holy Communion

LAST DAY TO ORDER!!!



Easter Flowers
to decorate St. John's
Cost: Hyacinth, \$6
Lilies, \$6.50

Please use the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board to place your order.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S ...						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	6pm 6th Grade Confirmation Class 7pm Praise Band	6pm Mid Week Lenten Service Our Savior 7pm Choir 8pm AA	10am Erie County Home (meet at church at 9:15am)	Pastor's Day Off	10am 1st Communion Class 4:30pm Worship Service 7pm Bible Study, Lorenz Home	8:30am Worship Service 10am Sunday School 11:15am Worship Service 

OUR CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a way of life ... Acts 20:35
"Tis more blessed to give, than to receive."

Thank you for helping to carry out our ministry through St. John's.

Baptized Believers644
 Confirmed Believers403
 Prior Week Total Attendance220
 Sunday School.....
 Adult Bible Class

Month to Date Offering \$11,725.71
 Monthly Budget Goal \$20,190.00
 Mission 2018, Year-to-Date.....\$625.00
(Plymouth Crossroads & St. Luke's Pantry)

Radio Broadcast Ministry

\$180/Full Sponsorship—\$45/Partial Sponsorship

Giving (1/1/18-2/28/18).....\$ 795
 Expenses (1/1/18-2/28/18) \$ 1,080
 Difference (1/1/18-2/28/18) (\$ 285)
 3/25 Harold Deutschlander
 4/1 Rick Thurnherr
 4/8 Lorenz/Martino Family
 4/16 Ross & Rose Contella
 4/22 Mike & Jan Brown

*It is more blessed
 to give than to receive.*

Acts 20:35

The **ST. JOHN'S MEN'S GROUP** meets at 8am on the 1st and 3rd Saturday (**March 17th**) of each month.

CAFÉ every month on the 3rd Thursday (**April 19th**).

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY Anyone interested in participating should contact Karen Dowdall (716-391-1171) (**March 17th, Lange Home; March 24th, Lorenz Home**).